



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

10 MARCH 2021

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## (U) CALIFORNIA

### (U) San Diego – Former Defense Contractor Executive Faces Charges in Defraud Scheme

(U) Pornpun Settaphakorn, a former executive of foreign defense contractor Glenn Defense Marine Asia (GDMA) was charged with participating in a conspiracy to submit fraudulent price quotes, claims and invoices to the US Navy in an effort to steal millions of dollars as part of a years-long fraud scheme. Settaphakorn appeared in federal court following her extradition last week from Thailand. The indictment returned in December 2014, alleges that Settaphakorn, along with co-defendants Neil Peterson and Linda Raja, among others, submitted false claims of more than \$5 million.

SOURCE: 9 March 2021, [US DoJ Press Release](#)

### (U) San Mateo – Hackers Breach Thousands of Security Cameras

(U) A group of hackers say they breached security-camera data collected by Silicon Valley startup Verkada Inc., gaining access to live feeds of 150,000 surveillance cameras inside hospitals, companies, police departments, prisons, and schools. Companies whose footage was exposed include carmaker Tesla Inc. and software provider Cloudflare Inc. In addition, hackers were able to view video from inside women's health clinics, psychiatric hospitals, and the offices of Verkada itself. Some of the cameras, including in hospitals, use facial-recognition technology to identify and categorize people captured on the footage. The hackers say they also have access to the full video archive of all Verkada customers.

SOURCE: 9 March 2021, [Bloomberg News](#)

## (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

### (U) Texas – CBP Agents Find Over \$1.9 Million Worth of Methamphetamine Hidden in Gas Tank

(U) Pharr – Border Patrol agents found over \$1.9 million worth of methamphetamine hidden inside a gas tank of a car arriving from Mexico. Agents working at the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge arrested a 23-year-old woman from Georgia after finding the narcotics hidden inside her Chevy Malibu's gas tank. The 20 packages containing 99 pounds of the suspected drug were found by agents using non-intrusive imaging. The drugs and vehicle were seized, and the woman was arrested and released to the custody of agents with Homeland Security Investigations.

SOURCE: 9 March 2021, [NBC4SA](#)

## (U) NATIONAL

### (U) District of Columbia – FBI Releases New Videos of Pipe Bombs Suspect

(U) Washington – The FBI is still searching for the person they believe set two pipe bombs at the Republican National Committee and Democratic National Committee headquarters the night before the US Capitol riot. The agency released several new videos, hoping someone will recognize the person's gait, body language or mannerisms. The pipe bombs were placed the morning of 5 January 2021. One in an alley behind the RNC headquarters and another next to a park bench near the DNC headquarters. The pipe bombs caused the evacuation of two congressional buildings during the Capitol riot.

SOURCE: 9 March 2021, [WUSA](#)

**(U) District of Columbia – DoD Approves US Capitol Police Extension Request of National Guard Troops**

(U) Washington – The Department of Defense has granted US Capitol Police's request to keep National Guard troops around Capitol Hill past the 12 March deadline put in place after the January insurrection. The decision underscores concerns about the ongoing threat of violence at the Capitol, two months after rioters breached the building in violence that left five people dead. Law enforcement have remained in a heightened security posture in response to intelligence suggesting possible threats to the Capitol by militia groups.

SOURCE: 9 March 2021, [WUSA](#)

**(U) New York – FBI Arrests More Capitol Rioters**

(U) New York – Two men wanted in the deadly riot at the US Capitol were arrested, including one who reportedly served as a bodyguard to a political confidant of former President Donald Trump. Roberto Minuta, 36, breached the Capitol grounds during the January insurrection. Also arrested was Isaac Steve Sturgeon, 32, who is charged with shoving a metal police barricade into police officers. At least five people, including a Capitol Police officer, died as a result of the violence at the Capitol, and two other officers killed themselves after. More than 300 people have been charged with federal crimes.

SOURCE: 9 March 2021, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL**

**(U) Greece – Youths Protesting Violence Attack Police Station**

(U) Athens – Greece's prime minister appealed for calm after youths protesting an incident of police violence attacked a police station with firebombs and severely injured one officer. The violence came during a demonstration by about 5,000 people, in the southern Nea Smyrni district. Hundreds of youths threw firebombs and stones at police, who tried to repel them with water cannons, tear gas and stun grenades. At one point in the clashes, rioters pulled down a police officer riding pillion in a column of motorcycle police. Dozens rushed at him, hitting him with clubs and stones and raining blows on him. Other officers eventually succeeded in repelling the mob, and the injured police officer was taken to hospital.

SOURCE: 9 March 2021, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Russia – Warns Against US Retaliation for SolarWinds Amid Fears of Cyberwar**

(U) Moscow – Russia warned against pending action that US officials say will take place in retaliation for the massive and ongoing hack into federal computer servers despite the potential for a devastating cyberwar. A spokesman for the Kremlin and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke in response to a series of claims from US officials, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken and FBI Director Christopher Wray, that they are considering harsh punishments on Russia for the attack. The comments serve as the latest denial of anything to do with the alarming intrusion into public and private computer servers that reportedly began in 2019.

SOURCE: 9 March 2021, [US News](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**